

September 2002

News for Planning Commissions and other Organizations Engaged in Community Planning in Hamilton County

## Planning Partnership Members

Anderson Township  
Blue Ash  
Cincinnati  
Colerain Township  
Columbia Township  
Deer Park  
Delhi Township  
Fairfax  
Forest Park  
Green Township  
Greenhills  
Harrison Township  
Indian Hill  
Loveland  
Mariemont  
Miami Township  
Milford  
Montgomery  
North Bend  
Norwood  
Sharonville  
Silverton  
Springdale  
Springfield Township  
Sycamore Township  
Symmes Township  
Wyoming

Citizen for Civic Renewal  
Citizens' Land Conservancy of Hamilton County  
Cincinnati - Hamilton County Community Action  
Agency  
Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce  
Cincinnatus Association  
Home Builders Association of Greater Cincinnati  
Jackson Township, Clermont County  
Junior League of Cincinnati  
League of Women Voters  
Ohio Valley Development Council  
The United Way & Community Chest  
Western Economic Council

The mission of the Planning Partnership is to bring together public, private and civic sector organizations engaged in community planning in Hamilton County so that mutual goals related to physical, economic and social issues can be planned for comprehensively and achieved collaboratively.

## The Planning Partnership

Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission  
138 East Court Street, Suite 807  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
Tel. 513 946 4455  
Fax. 513 946 4475  
website: [www.planningpartnership.org](http://www.planningpartnership.org)  
email: [catalina.landivar@hamilton-co.org](mailto:catalina.landivar@hamilton-co.org)

## Community COMPASS Approaches a Turning Point



A View of the First CATs Meeting

The Planning Partnership will meet on September 25<sup>th</sup> to consider "The Vision for Hamilton County's Future" as recommended by the Community COMPASS Steering Team.

The vision for the County comprises four principal and inter-related goals: *Assuring Economic Prosperity, Building Collaborative Decision Making, Embracing Diversity and Equity, and Balancing Development and the Environment.*

With over 3,000 ideas generated from a host of community forums and the highly

successful Countywide Town Meeting held at Music Hall in January 2002, citizens worked in Community COMPASS Action Teams (or CATs) throughout the Spring to develop hundreds of strategies to guide the County over the next years.

Thirty initiatives such as "Government Accountability and Effectiveness," "Coordinating Planning and Infrastructure," and "Creating Partnerships for Workforce Preparedness" resulted from grouping similar strategies.

A genuine interest in crafting a successful plan took the COMPASS Steering Team to detailed levels of analysis that resulted in the recommendation of "first-tier" initiatives for implementation. A listing of all initiatives along with the Steering Team recommendations is on the website at [www.communitycompass.org](http://www.communitycompass.org).

The Partnership will vote on the final recommendations to be submitted to the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission for their adoption.

## Stormwater: Resource or Threat

The Stormwater Management Education Task Force, a subcommittee of the Planning Partnership, is examining the aspects of stormwater through a presentation designed to inform and educate commissioners, staff and elected officials in Hamilton County.

The Task Force launched the educational program on stormwater management at the July 8th Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission Meeting. This program will help communities meet part of the mandated educational/outreach requirement of the Phase II storm water regulations.

Local governments must submit a permit application and implementation plan to the Ohio EPA by March 10, 2003 to gain compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Permit. Once the application is approved and the implementation plans are in place, violation of the permit application requirements, which include aspects of site development and

construction, could result in jail terms for the jurisdictional representative who signed off the permit application.

The 30-minute presentation is followed by a questions and answers session. The presentation includes basic information on storm water regulations, the mandate's implications, site development principles and applications to improve the stormwater quality management disposal practices. A "real life" development scenario, that demonstrates how these

*continued in page 3...*



The Stormwater Management Education Task Force

## Let's Think BIG!

by Pete Witte



As an avid community activist I thought I knew it all. However, serving on the City of Cincinnati Planning Commission and now on the Planning

Partnership has provided me with a new and more complete perspective: an understanding of "both sides of the story" in a planning process. I have learned that residents, and other stakeholders involved in the planning process are not always on the same page. Being a Planning Commissioner has opened my eyes to the broader picture, and helped me understand that sometimes communities need to compromise for the greater good.

The Planning Partnership is founded on the basis of collaboration for the achievement of common goals. The Partnership's initiative of developing the Community COMPASS (the first comprehensive county plan in more than forty years) is the first step toward finding out what our common goals are. In the process, we must agree on what weaknesses inside Hamilton County need to be addressed first. We also need to find out Hamilton County's strengths, and determine which ones we should exploit first and build upon.

Because Community COMPASS is the result of the work and input of more than a thousand people from different jurisdictions, with varied backgrounds and interests, it is understandable that some parts of it may not please everyone. However, it is important not to get distracted by details. Let's discuss with open minds what the really big issues are and let's move toward our common goals of making this county a great place to live, work and play. Without this plan, I fear continued deterioration of parts of the region and the never-ending decline of Hamilton County's population and economic viability. We all realize these trends will lead to unhappy scenarios.

Let's think big!

*Peter "Pete" Witte is the Planning Partnership Chairperson-Elect, City of Cincinnati Planning Commissioner, and President of the Price Hill Civic Club. Pete can be reached at [pete.witte@baronid.com](mailto:pete.witte@baronid.com)*

## Rediscovering JEDDS

by Harry Blanton

For 12 years, an Ohio law that promotes economic development sat idle in Hamilton County. Now, Joint Economic Development Districts (JEDDs) may be getting a second look in our region.

The JEDD law allows communities to form a cooperative solution to their individual problems. Some townships are in need of public services that they cannot afford (i.e. sewer, water, EMS, etc.), while municipalities often find themselves land-locked and unable to increase their revenues through new development. A JEDD can help with both problems.

Under a JEDD agreement, a municipality can provide services to neighboring townships or municipalities. In return, the municipality can collect income tax from the jobs that are created within the other jurisdiction's portion of the JEDD. Townships retain property taxes and the parties to the agreement decide how the income tax will be distributed. JEDDs also offer an alternative to annexation. Agreements often contain language that prohibits or limits annexation.

Several local jurisdictions are taking a new look at JEDDs and forming relationships between neighboring communities.

Harrison Township and the City of Harrison are considering a JEDD agreement. Other communities are looking into it as well.

In other parts of the state, JEDDs have been used since 1994. Examples include an agreement between Akron and three townships. The Butler County Transportation Improvement District's creation of a JEDD agreement is another example.

But throughout the state, JEDD's are not being used to their full potential. "The

**an old tool can provide the basis for economic development through multi-jurisdictional cooperation**

JEDD has not yet been widely implemented in the state," says Darryl Hennessy of the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD). Mr. Hennessy believes that approximately 10 JEDD districts have been created in the state. One reason for the slow adoption of the JEDD program is that it originally applied only to counties with chartered governments. This has changed and the

law has been opened up to all jurisdictions throughout the state.

If you would like more information on JEDDs, contact Harry Blanton with HCDC - Hamilton County Economic Development Office at 513-631-8292 x 20 or [blanton@hcdc.com](mailto:blanton@hcdc.com).

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## The Eastern Corridor Land Use Vision Plan

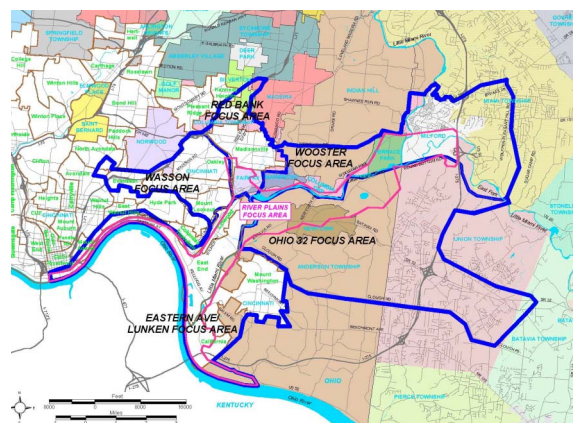
Calls for Greater Connectivity

The Eastern Corridor Land Use Vision Plan, covering a 70-square mile area, was unanimously adopted by the Regional Planning Commission on August 1, 2002. The adoption concludes an 18-month process in which considerable public input established a shared vision for 15 political jurisdictions within Hamilton and Clermont Counties.

A Vision Group comprised of representatives from each community and other key stakeholders guided the process. The Plan was unanimously endorsed by the Vision Group on April 4, 2002.

One focus of the study was to build upon the Eastern Corridor MIS (Major Investment Study) and provide land use recommendations for consideration in developing the Part A: PE/EIS (Public Engineering/ Environmental Impact Statement).

The Eastern Corridor Land Use Vision Plan is also intended as a guide for the



Eastern Corridor Focus Areas

updating of other local and regional land use plans.

Major recommendations in the Plan are to preserve land in the river plains for agriculture or open space, to create connectivity improvements for people and goods, and to preserve existing parks and open space, and create new parks and open space for under-served areas.



### Focus on Revitalization of Aging Neighborhoods

The Program Committee functions as an incubator for action-oriented initiatives of the Partnership. The Committee is currently working on the development of the programs for the 2002-2003 period on the topic "Revitalization of Aging Neighborhoods."

This topic was selected based on overwhelming interest of the membership for its impact on the revitalization of Hamilton County. Guest speakers from the following organizations participated in information sessions in June, July and August: Hamilton County Development Company, Hamilton County Community Development Department, Southwest First Suburbs Consortium, Community COMPASS (Hamilton County Comprehensive Master Plan), Downtown Ohio, Inc., and the



**Program Committee Meeting**

Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority/Planning and Brownfield Development. Participants identified the primary programs that their organization offers, pointed out any promotion or utilization of those programs for joint efforts between and among municipalities/townships, and elaborated on how the programs they have in place might be enhanced by multi-jurisdictional collaboration.

For more information on the next steps or to get involved, contact Joanne Gerson at 513-793-2648

### Cost of Government Services Study

The "Cost of Government Services Study" will create a comparative financial analysis and baseline data related to the cost of services provision in Hamilton County jurisdictions. The study will evaluate revenue and expendi-

ture trends, revenue source stability and intergovernmental financial relationships for all jurisdictions within the County. At the completion of the study, jurisdictions will receive a baseline report that could be used as a benchmark for future financial planning in each community.

One of the most complex and time consuming aspects of this study is the data collection. Information has been gathered from the Hamilton County Auditor's Office, the State of Ohio Auditor's Office, local jurisdictions and the U.S. Census Bureau. A second round of data collection and revision of data already collected is underway.

Remember; the report will be as useful as the data you provide to us. Preliminary results will be discussed with the Ad-hoc committee in September. Contact: Catalina Landivar-Simon at 513-946-4455 or project consultant Lori A. Thompson at 513-484-6580 or [lpwconsultants@aol.com](mailto:lpwconsultants@aol.com) for more information.

### Proposal to Reduce Fee Goes to the Ballot

The Resolution of Cooperation that modified the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission and created the Planning Partnership included a formula for calculating its members' annual fees. The formula, based on population, land area, assessed valuation, and rate of inflation, produced a five-tier fee scale. On a per capita basis, the current fee structure varied from 1.6 cents to \$3.44. An amendment to the formula would place a cap on the annual fee for all jurisdiction members to assure that the fee does not exceed 35 cents per resident. The 35-cent cap would be adjusted annually based on the rate of inflation.

If the amendment is approved, no increases in annual fees for any jurisdiction will occur, and the following communities will have lower fees in 2003: Cleves, Columbia Township, Fairfax, Indian Hill, Mariemont, North Bend, Addyston, Amberley, Arlington Heights, Crosby Township, Evendale, Glendale, Newtown, Terrace Park, Whitewater Township and Woodlawn.

For the amendment to be effective, it must be approved by 51% of the Partnership's jurisdiction members. The deadline for submission of the ballot is 5:00 pm Friday October 4, 2002.

### Where Do We Grow from Here? OKI Land Use Commission Regional Visioning Process

The OKI Regional Council of Governments is holding eight public forums in the region's eight counties between September 16 and September 26, 2002. The forums, open to the general public, will gauge opinions and preferences about what land development patterns and the transportation system could look like 20 years from now in Greater Cincinnati.

Plan on attending: the opinions given will help OKI officials determine how plans for transportation and for land development can be better coordinated. OKI is responsible for deciding how federal dollars for transportation are spent in our region.

In Hamilton County the meeting will be on September 19, 2002, 7-9 p.m. at TECHSOLVE (formerly called the Institute for Advanced Manufacturing Sciences) on 1111 Edison Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio. Information: Jane Wittke 513-621-6300 [JWITTKE@oki.org](mailto:JWITTKE@oki.org) or Chris Moran 513-481-6058 [vstlib@yahoo.com](mailto:vstlib@yahoo.com)

### Bring Professionalism to Your Commission

With tight budgets and limited resources, we know many local government commissions are stretched to the limit. You may find yourself doing new tasks with less experience than you desire. Or perhaps you have experience, but feel out of touch with today's issues or effective means of managing meetings.

The Planning Partnership of the Hamilton County Planning Commission offers a Certification Program for Planning Commissioners that can be completed in just two days. The program is 16 hours long, and very reasonably priced.

The "Making Great Communities" Certified Planning Commissioners' Program will be offered on October 21 & 22. Participation is limited to the first 50 registrants, so please register now. Contact Catalina Landivar-Simon at 513-946-4455

### From the Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is finalizing its strategic plan. It focuses on retention and expansion of the Partnership's membership. For more information contact Adam Goetzman at 513-598-3060.

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### Stormwater: Resource or Threat

principles can be incorporated into a site development, is included. A prevailing theme in this presentation is that stormwater is as much a resource as a threat.

Participants will receive a handbook with slides of the presentation, site development examples, fact sheets, examples of best management practices, and a list of available resources to assist jurisdictions in gaining an additional level of expertise when dealing with the issue of stormwater management.

This presentation in your community is free, and will be available from September 1st, 2002 to February 28, 2003. Contact Catalina Landivar-Simon at 513-946-4455.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**The Citizens' Land Conservancy Hamilton County and The Junior League of Cincinnati have joined the Partnership as affiliate members**

## September

Event	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Membership Committee Meeting	September 4	9:00 - 11:00 am	807 County Administration Building 138 East Court Street	Adam Goetzman 598 3060
Stormwater Management Presentations				Catalina Landivar-Simon 946 4455
Village of Addyston	September 4	7:30 pm	Village Administration Building 234 Main Street	Presenter: T. Vanderman
Village of Golf Manor	September 9	7:30 pm	Village Administration Building 6450 Wiehe Road	Presenters: Nancy Ellwood & Tom Ryther
City of Norwood	September 16	3:30 pm	Council Chamber, Norwood City Hall 4645 Montgomery Road	Presenters: Robin Corathers & Nancy Ellwood
Anderson Township	September 19	7:30 pm	Anderson Township Government Center Main Meeting Room 7954 Beechmont Ave	Presenter: Jim Rozelle
Ad-hoc Committee Meeting: Cost of Government Services Study Preliminary Report	September 10	10:00am - 12:00pm	807 County Administration Building 138 East Court Street	Catalina Landivar-Simon 946 4455
Program Committee Meeting	September 17	10:00am - 12:00pm	TBD	Joanne Gerson 793 2648
Planning Partnership Meeting	September 25	5:00 - 7:30 pm	Drake Conference Center Rooms F & G 151 W Galbraith Road	Ron Miller 946 4453

## October

Event	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Editorial Committee Meeting	October 1	9:00 - 11:00 am	807 County Administration Building, 138 East Court Street	Catalina Landivar-Simon 946 4455
Stormwater Management Presentations				Catalina Landivar-Simon 946 4455
City of Silverton	October 3	3:30 pm	Council Chamber City of Silverton 6660 Plainfield Road	Presenters: Nancy Ellwood & Brian Bohl
Columbia Township	October 8	7:30 pm	Township Building 5686 Kenwood Road	Presenter: Jim Rozelle
Colerain Township	October 29	6:30 pm	4200 Springdale Road Coleran Township, OH 45251	Presenters: Brian Bohl, Holly Utrata-Halcomb
Program Committee Meeting	October 15	10:00 am	TBD	Joanne Gerson 793 2648
Certified Planning Commissioners' Program	October 21-22	8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Drake Conference Center Room F & G	Catalina Landivar-Simon 946 4455
Executive Community Meeting	October 23	8:00 - 10:00 am	Drake Conference Center Room H	Pete Witte 251 0882
Newsletter Deadline for Submission	October 31	5:00 pm	807 County Administration Building 138 East Court Street	Catalina Landivar-Simon 946 4455
Membership Committee Meeting	TBD	9:00 - 11:00 am	807 County Administration Building 138 East Court Street	Adam Goetzman 598 3060

## November

Event	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Program Committee Meeting	November 12	10:00 am	TBD	Joanne Gerson 793 2648
Executive Committee Meeting	November 27	8:00 - 10:00 am	Drake Conference Center Room H	Pete Witte 251 0882
Membership Committee Meeting	TBD	9:00 - 11:00 am	807 County Administration Building 138 East Court Street	Adam Goetzman 598 3060

## December

Event	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Workshop for Newly Elected Officials	December 7	8:00 - 10:00 am	807 County Administration Building 138 East Court Street	Adam Goetzman 598 3060
Executive Committee Meeting	December 18	8:00 - 10:00 am	Drake Conference Center Room H	Pete Witte 251 0882
Program Committee Meeting	December 17	10:00 am	TBD	Joanne Gerson 793 2648

Note: Schedule of meetings is subject to change. Please confirm with the listed contact person or check the Planning Partnership website: [www.planningpartnership.org](http://www.planningpartnership.org)